

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10

AGR-20 COME-00 L-03 DRC-01 /112 W

----- 082408

R 090935Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1972

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PK

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S NEW ADVISOR IN ECONOMIC FIELD

REF: ISLAMABAD 9703

1. ECON COUNS. TOOK OCCASION OF CONVERSATION WITH FINANCE MINISTER MUBASHIR HASAN TO SOUND OUT MINISTER ON HIS REACTION TO APPOINTMENT OF MAHBUB UL HAQ AS ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. MINISTER ANSWERED IN SOMEWHAT GUARDED MANNER, CHOOSING WORDS CAREFULLY. HE CLAIMED TO WELCOME HAQ APPOINTMENT, GOING ON TO STATE "THERE HAS BEEN A QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN THE SITUATION." HE EXPLAINED THIS BY STATING THAT WHEN BHUTTO GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER NEARLY HSO YEARS AGO, TOP LEADERS OF GOVERNMENT HAD VARYING IDEAS ABOUT POLICY FORMULATION, AND THE MANY EXPERTS IN THE BUREAUCRACY OFTEN DIFFERED WITH THESE. NOW, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT LEADERS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AND WHAT DIRECTION THEY INTEND PURSUE. BUT TO FOLLOW THIS DIRECTION AND PURSUE POLICY GOALS THE GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY LACKS SUFFICIENT EXPERTISE, HAND ADDITIONAL HANDS ARE WELCOME.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN THE MINISTER'S WELL KNOWN IDEOLOGICAL VIEWS FAVORING PUBLIC SECTOR, AND TAKING
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LITERALLY HAQ'S PRIVATE STATEMENTS CALLING FOR A GOVERN-

MENT "TRUCE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR" (REFTEL), IT WILL
BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THEIR APPROACHES CAN BE SUCCESS-
FULLY HARMONIZED, OR IF RESULT TURNS OUT BE GOP PERSONNEL
CHANGES ON ECONOMIC POLICY FRONT.SOBER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC GROWTH, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA09710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731144/aaaabgmw.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ISLAMABAD 9703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S NEW ADVISOR IN ECONOMIC FIELD
TAGS: EGEN, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005